

MINUTES

Health Information Technology and Transparency Advisory Council and Ad Hoc Expert Meeting

Georgia Tech Research Institute
Room 119B

November 5, 2007
8:30 A.M- 4:00 P.M.

Members Present

Jeffrey G. Broka	Dr. James Buehler	Marsha Burke
Dedra Cantrell	Dr. Jack Chapman	Tod Citron
Monye Connolly	Greg Fields	Duane A. Kavka
R. Scott Leavell	Laura Linn	Patricia Lavelly
Doug Moses	Dr. Winston Price	Robert Bush
Sonya Smith	Dennis L. White	William Zimmerman
Chris Downing	Dr. Louvenia Rainge	

DCH Staff Present

Mary Cairo	Ruth Carr	Carrie Downing
Matt Jarrard	Sara Lambert	Diane Manheim
Alicia McCord-Estes	Altamese Morris	Sonny Munter
Denise Williams		

Guests

Dr. Rhonda Medows, DCH Commissioner
Ms. Bonnie Cassidy, Strategic Group Lead, CCHIT

Chairperson Dr. Winston Price called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m., at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) located at 250 14th Street, N.W., Atlanta, GA 30318 in Room 119B. A quorum of the board was not present.

The meeting commenced with the Dr. Price thanking Mr. Harold "Sonny" Munter Chief Information Officer of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) and Dr. Rhonda Medows, Commissioner, DCH for overseeing, reviewing, assisting and clearing a prepared statement for the National Medical Association for Health Information Technology as it impacts health disparities during a recent Congressional Hearing.

Chairperson Dr. Price made the following announcements regarding recent activities:

- DCH was awarded a \$3.9 million grant for the creation of the Transparency website.

- Dr. Price has acquired an educational CD, *EHR101*, from New York State. The CD contains information regarding what practitioners and the health community need to do for procurement and certification when creating a Transparency website.
- Dr. Price recently attended the CMS Congressional Hearings. CMS representatives were very sensitive to addressing the needs of small practices and rural communities in Georgia.

Chairperson Dr. Price welcomed Dr. Rhonda Medows, DCH Commissioner, to the meeting. Commissioner Medows began by formally thanking the members of the Advisory Council for the hard work done within the past year. Commissioner Medows expressed enthusiasm regarding the re-release of the RFP with the help of additional funding from the Medicaid Transformation Grant.

Commissioner Medows announced the awardees of \$853,088 in Health Information Exchange (HIE) grants. The following grants were awarded to help foster the development of HIE, electronic prescribing, and/ or adoption of electronic medical records across Georgia:

- Diane Weems accepted a planning and implementation grant on behalf of Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council, Inc. in the amount of \$272,588.
- Herman Thompson accepted a planning and implementation grant on behalf of East Georgia Health Care Center, Inc. in the amount of \$250,000.
- Edward Farr and Dee Sears accepted a planning and implementation grant on behalf of Sumter Regional Hospital in the amount of \$250,000..
- Mary Wickersham accepted a planning grant on behalf of Washington County Regional Medical Center and Extended Care Facility in the amount of \$80,500.00.

Commissioner Medows encouraged the awardees to work closely with the Advisory Board and Ad Hoc members to ensure the report of accomplishments over the course of the next year. Accomplishments should be managed by establishing benchmarks, developing mechanisms of measurement to ensure benchmarks are met, and by communicating information outwards.

Chairman Dr. Price addressed the non- approval of the September meeting minutes and allowed the Board members a few moments to review the minutes. Upon review, Dr. James Buehler motioned to amend the second paragraph, second sentence to “the application that does not meet the requirements.” The amended sentence was motioned for approval, seconded and the minutes were approved.

Chairman Dr. Price introduced Ms. Bonnie S. Cassidy, Strategic Group Lead, CCHIT. Ms. Cassidy’s presentation was entitled “Quality Healthcare through Quality Information.” Ms. Cassidy’s provided an overview of the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT). Some of the key points discussed were:

- CCHIT was established in September 2004 to promote electronic health records
- CCHIT became a recognized certifying body in October 2006

During the Ms. Cassidy's presentation, a discussion ensued regarding national electronic health records (EHR) initiatives including fraud, privacy and security, and the consolidation oversight of health information technology. Ms. Cassidy then entertained questions.

Chairman Dr. Price addressed the issues of EHR privacy and security violations discussed during the recent CMS Congressional Hearing. Dr. Price emphasized that certain communities are going to be very hesitant to jump on board with this project until there is a strong sense from the federal government that privacy and security violations will be addressed.

Dr. Rhonda Medows extended an invitation to all attendees to attend the next National Governors Association Health Information Community Data Exchange Meeting to be held November 14-16th. Dr. Medows serves as Co-Chairman. The meeting is open to the public and is informal in nature. The topics of discussion will be State Health Benefit Plans and the health information exchange needs for public health.

Chairman Price addressed Commissioner Medows with the recommendation to cancel the December HITT Advisory Board meeting due to the impending Christmas holiday. The Commissioner agreed and formally announced the cancellation of the December meeting.

The HIE grant awardees delivered presentations detailing the following items regarding the implementation of their respective projects:

- Identification of Partnerships
- Planning/ Implementation Strategy
- Timetable
- Specific use of Funding
- Evaluation/ Measurement Tools

A question and answer period ensued after each presentation. At the end of each session, Robert Bush asked the awardees what they would bring to the Health Information Technology initiative and encouraged the awardees to work together during the developmental process.

Vice Chairman Chris Downing reported on the Health Information Transparency Standing Committee. There were no further updates to be reported.

Diane Manheim, Transparency Project Manager, reported on the Health Information Transparency Standing Committee. The Committee received a grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The re-bid of the Request for Proposal will be released in approximately two weeks. The Medicaid Transformation Grant award allowed DCH to be featured in the Governor's office press release.

Robert Bush announced the awardees will be contacted by Denise Williams Hines, HIE Project Manager, regarding the details of fund allocation.

There being no further business to be brought before the Health Information Technology and Transparency Advisory Board Meeting at its September 19, 2007 session, Vice Chairman Chris Downing adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE
_____ DAY OF _____, 2008.

Winston Price, Chairperson

Chris Downing, Vice Chairperson